

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Dextran "Bernburg"

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. VEB Serumwerk Dessau developed and produced a product called Dextran. When the pharmaceutical branch of the Dessau plant was transferred to VEB Serumwerk Bernburg, the production of Dextran was also transferred, and the product was renamed Dextran "Bernburg". It is identical with the former Dextran "Dessau".
2. Dextran "Bernburg" is a polysaccharide decomposed hydrolytically. The basic material is a saccharide which is the result of a biosynthesis carried out by the streptococcus Leuconostoc-Mesenteroides with the aid of enzymes. These saccharides, which have a net-like structure, have a very high molecular weight, well over 100,000. Hydrolytic decomposition is carried out with the aid of certain catalysts and results in intermediate products with molecular sizes between 20,000 and 40,000 Angstrom. In this form they are water soluble colloids; the solution has the qualities of blood plasma.
3. Dextran "Bernburg" is produced in 4% to 5% colloidal solution. It can be preserved for an unlimited length of time at room temperature. It is considered to be a high quality plasma substitute because it is secreted from blood circulation only after four times 24 hours, as compared with salt infusions, which disappear completely from circulation within 4 to 6 hours. Dextran "Bernburg" is also considered superior to polyvinyl alcohols because it is decomposed completely by and finally separated completely from the human body.
4. Dextran "Bernburg" has a colloid-osmotic pressure of about 340 to 380 millimeters of water. Its viscosity is 3 to 3.8 in relation to water.
5. Dextran "Bernburg" is produced in glass flasks of 400 cubic centimeters. It is not available on the open market; its delivery from the enterprise to hospitals is controlled.

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